

5.4 AGRICULTURE AND SOILS

This section addresses the agriculture and soils resources for the proposed PEF Expansion. The environmental consequences to agriculture and soil resources from developing the PEF Expansion are also discussed, as well as the Applicant's commitment to apply the applicable CEC Conditions of Certification for the existing PEF to the PEF Expansion.

The PEF Expansion consists of a nominal 160 MW simple cycle combustion turbine generator. The PEF Expansion area will be approximately two acres located entirely within the existing PEF 31-acre site boundary. The PEF Expansion requires no modification to the existing PEF offsite linear facilities (e.g., electric transmission line, fuel gas supply line, or water supply line). The PEF Expansion will use the existing PEF administration and control, warehouse and shop, and water treatment buildings. Site access and onsite roadways are common with the existing PEF. Figure 3.1-1 of this application depicts the new facilities required for the PEF Expansion project within the footprint of the existing PEF.

5.4.1 Affected Environment

The affected environment for the PEF Expansion is as described in the original AFC (99-AFC-7). The Agriculture and Soils Section 5.4 of 99-AFC-7 is included for reference in Attachment C, Agriculture and Soils Materials, appended to this application.

5.4.2 Environmental Consequences

5.4.2.1 Soil Resource

The PEF Expansion will share common facilities with the existing PEF, and thus the site disturbance remains unchanged from the existing PEF. Therefore, no new impacts to agriculture and soils are expected as a result of the PEF Expansion. Section 5.4 of 99-AFC-7 is included for reference as Attachment C, Agriculture and Soils, of this application.

5.4.3 Mitigation Measures

The Applicant proposes to apply the applicable Conditions of Certification for the existing PEF to the PEF Expansion. The Conditions of Certification for 99-AFC-7 are included as in Section 9.0 of this application. With implementation of these Conditions of Certification, no significant unavoidable adverse impacts to the soils resource, agriculture, or prime farmland are anticipated due to construction and operation of the PEF Expansion project.

5.4.4 LORS Compliance

The PEF Expansion will comply with applicable LORS related to soil conservation and agricultural land conversion issues. Refer Section 7.0 LORS of this application for more information.

5.4.5 References

The agriculture and soils references for the existing PEF are applicable to the PEF Expansion. The references from Section 5.4 of 99-AFC-7 are included as part of Attachment C of this application.